



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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November 29, 2007

Phil Isenberg, Chairman
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Follow-up Statement by the California Farm Bureau Federation to Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force Concerning Delta Conveyance

Dear Chairman Isenberg:

The California Farm Bureau Federation ("Farm Bureau") is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership California corporation that's purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the state of California and to find solutions to the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community. Farm Bureau is California's largest farm organization, comprised of 53 county Farm Bureaus currently representing roughly 91,000 members in 56 counties. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of California's resources.

Farm Bureau has previously made its views known to the Blue Ribbon Task Force ("Task Force") but is commenting again as both a reaffirmation and a further elaboration on an earlier statement regarding water conveyance:

1. Viable through-Delta options, which would avoid unacceptable adverse impacts to Delta agriculture and in-Delta water quality while providing an adequate and reliable supply of water for the export areas of the state, should be thoroughly, formally and aggressively studied.
2. If, such solutions prove adequate, equitable and cost effective to satisfy the dual objectives identified previously, such solutions should receive fair consideration on an equal footing with other options as potential viable near-term or self-standing, long-term conveyance options for the Delta.

With respect to the potential for an “alternative” approach (i.e., peripheral conveyance), our position is no different than that for a modified through-Delta option:

Any such option must protect in-Delta water quality, in addition to a sustainable ecosystem, and must at the same time provide an adequate, reliable water supply for beneficial uses south of the Delta.

If a through-Delta option is selected (as either an interim or a long-term solution), it must simultaneously serve the physical and economic needs of the water users outside of the Delta, including agriculture south of the Delta. Similarly, if an isolated or dual conveyance option is selected as a long-term water management strategy for the State, this option must incorporate features to alleviate associated water quality impacts in the Delta.

In an isolated or dual conveyance scenario, the stated objectives cannot be achieved without strong, enforceable assurances, balanced operational controls, and some built-in optimized combination of actual physical mitigation. Similarly for a through-Delta approach not involving isolated or dual conveyance, the prevailing view appears, with few exceptions, to be that the same dual objectives cannot likely be realized without some significant degree of separation of water supply and ecosystem functions in the Delta. In either scenario, an option that fails to support both in-Delta water quality and export reliability, and also to effectively address endemic problems relating to listed species and the environment, is an option that does not optimally serve the State or California agriculture over the long-term.

In the end it may make no great difference which conveyance option is selected, ***provided*** that the option is sufficiently optimized and equipped with all of the necessary technical and operational characteristics to ensure mutual satisfaction of the competing and often conflicting needs of the ecosystem, export water supply, and in-Delta water quality. Whatever the option, the basic criteria for an acceptable outcome for the state as a whole remain the same.

Finally, we would also like to impress upon the Task Force that, even with strong assurances and physical features to ameliorate adverse impacts to both export reliability and in-Delta water quality, no long-term sustainable water management strategy is possible without various upstream and out-of-Delta actions, including substantial investment in additional surface and groundwater storage, levees, local conveyance and distribution, potential reservoir reoperation, new flood control strategies, conjunctive use, economically achievable water use efficiency, recycling, desalination, and upstream stewardship of watersheds. If water supplies to support the tenth largest economy in the world and the ecological health of the largest estuary in North America are desirable public values, then these are areas that warrant significant public investment now and in the future. Such measures cannot be overlooked as part

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of an overall comprehensive package that aspires to overcome various significant challenges of the next 100 years.

At this critical juncture for California agriculture, our long-term water needs and natural resources, and for the future economic prosperity of the State, Farm Bureau thanks Delta Vision, the Task Force, and the State of California for the opportunity to comment.

If you have any questions, please call me directly at (916) 561-5520.

Sincerely,

Doug Mosebar
President